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26 September 1947

MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: FBIB Personnel Shortage

1. With recent personnel losses and those anticipated in the immediate future, the following shortages will be very apparent from an operational standpoint:

Editorial Division

One qualified editor, with background knowledge of German affairs.

One qualified editor, with background knowledge of Russian affairs.

One qualified editor, with background knowledge of Latin American, especially Argentine, Chilean, and Brazilian, affairs.

One qualified editor, with background knowledge of Greek, Turkish, and Near Eastern affairs.

One qualified editor, with background knowledge of Southeast Asia and Indonesian affairs.

Field Division

Two Russian monitors.

Three Spanish monitors with secondary French or other European language.

One French monitor.

One English monitor.

One radio technician.

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2. Due to the unique nature of FBIB operations most editorial personnel regardless of their qualifications are of marginal value for at least thirty days. Therefore, temporary replacements in this category would hardly be worthwhile unless FBIB could be assured of their services for a minimum of sixty days.

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3. The following briefly describes the duties of a monitor:

Listens to foreign-language radio programs, consisting of news, commentary, press reviews, speeches. While program is in progress makes English-language summary comprising all significant detail of material therein. Subsequently from dictaphone recordings makes complete English text of selected portions.

Requires native's fluency in foreign language and in English, thorough knowledge of current international affairs, particularly of personal and place names in the news; ability to use typewriter with comfort, keen hearing; freedom to work at night; temperament to work under pressure; habitual combination of speed and accuracy.

Temporary replacements in this category will be impracticable unless candidates who have actual experience in monitoring with techniques similar to ours can be found since the best qualified recruits produce nothing usable for some thirty days and are not fully efficient for about six months.

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[redacted]

Deputy Chief, FBIS

CO/FB

LKW:hmc

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